

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

LENARD T. DIGGINS, CHAIR
DIANE M. MAHON, VICE CHAIR
JOHN V. HURD
STEPHEN W. DECOURCEY
ERIC D. HELMUTH



730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
TELEPHONE
781-316-3020
781-316-3029 FAX

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Swan, Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

FROM: Britton Mallard
Administrative Assistant

DATE: February 28, 2023

RE: Concerns Re: Intersection Improvement at Churchill Ave, Endicott Rd, and Gloucester St

The Select Board at the meeting of February 27, 2023, referred the attached to you for your review and recommendations back to the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

attachment

Summary

At the intersection of Churchill Ave, Endicott Rd, and Gloucester St we believe the road is excessively wide, which leads to unsafe pedestrian crossing, unsafe vehicle merging, and an unnecessary lack of green space. To give perspective, the current distance pedestrians cross is equivalent to 10-15 Subaru Forester SUVs side-to-side. We kindly ask the town to explore and act upon options for decreasing the area of paved space, increasing green space, and supporting safer crossing of pedestrians and drivers.

Areas for Intersection Improvement

The intersection of Churchill Ave, Endicott Rd, and Gloucester St is depicted in Figure 1 below with example images from a pedestrian point of view in Appendix 1. The wide road width entering the intersection, in addition to the size of the intersection itself, lead to multiple problems including:

Pedestrian safety: While the roads that feed into the intersection are about 30 feet wide, the primary pedestrian crossing areas range from 62 – 90 feet wide and do not have crosswalk signage. These large distances take extra time to cross on foot and do not have any protections from traffic. Of note, this intersection is heavily trafficked by high school students walking to/from school.

Vehicle safety: Vehicles coming from Gloucester or Endicott and turning onto Churchill have multiple challenges including (1) uncertainty where to stop given the wide road opening and (2) poor visibility looking south along Churchill given a hill and curve in the road. Furthermore, given the obtuse angle of the intersection, it's not always clear what is the main flow of traffic and subsequently vehicles tend to merge or turn at higher speeds than may be safe.

Green space: All the excess pavement area could instead be green space. Our impression is that Arlington recognizes the importance of green space, including water runoff buffering, reduction of urban heat islands, and general citizen enjoyment.

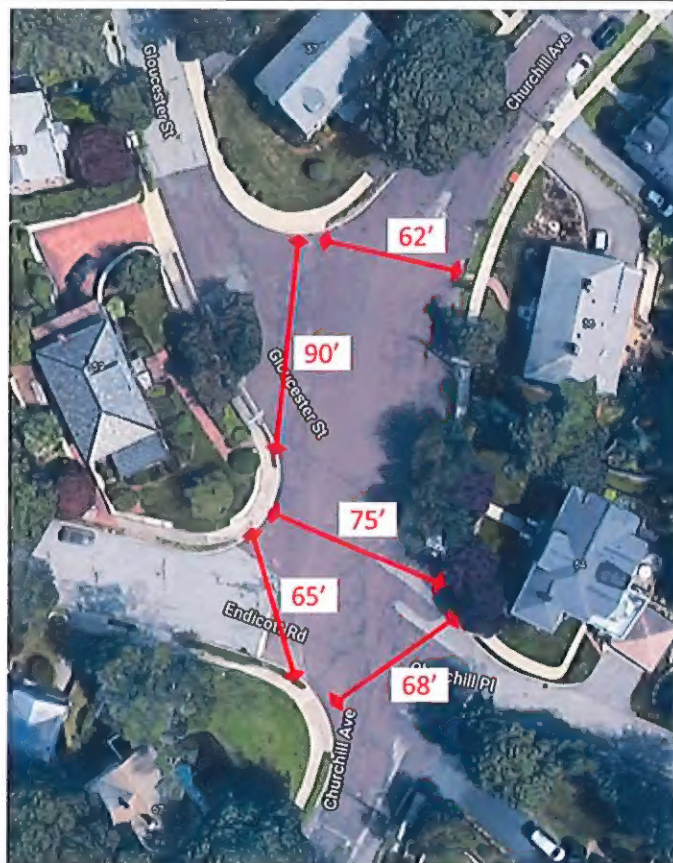


Figure 1: Google image of the intersection. Distances measured in feet and done by hand using a tape measure.

Potential Solution

We believe there are options for extending the curbs and/or adding islands to address some of the issues raised above. Below in Figure 2 is one option we roughly sketched as a potential solution to the problems raised. A similar approach was taken at the intersection of Gray St. And Endicott Rd with success in slowing traffic on Endicott. We ask the town to consider this option, as well as explore additional solutions, to significantly improve this intersection and the lives of people who use it.

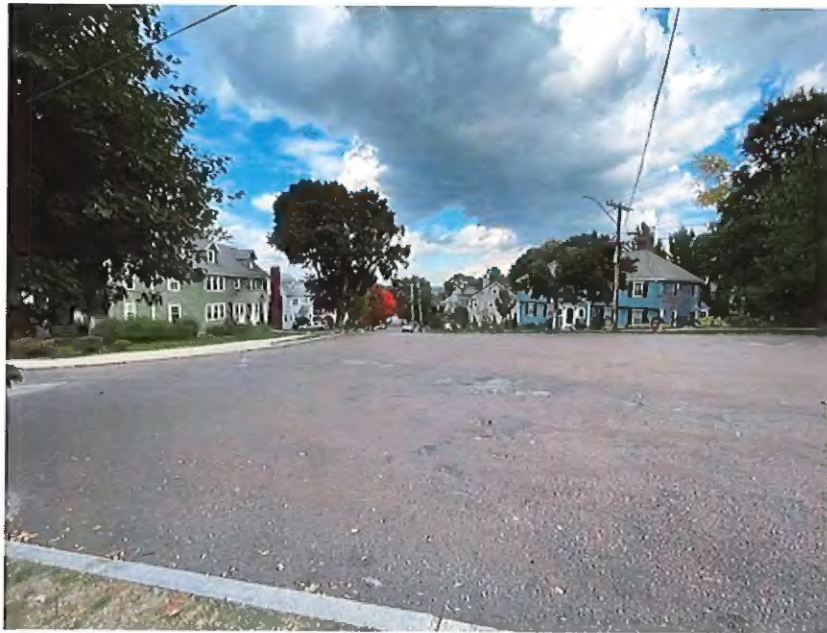


Figure 2: Sketches of alternate intersection design

Thanks for your consideration in this matter. Please find signatures on the following page

Name	Address	Date	Signature
Devin and Brittany Bridgen	25 Endicott	1/1/2023	Devin Bridgen Brittany Bridgen
Daniel Sheehy	141 Gray St	1/1/2023	Daniel Sheehy
Susan Vik	141 Gray St	1/1/2023	Susan Vik
J. David Leslie	145 Gray St	1/1/2023	J. David Leslie
Katarzyna Bryc	145 Gray St.	1/1/2023	Katarzyna Bryc
Chris Chiappa	38 Temple	1/1/2023	Chris Chiappa
Maggie Benthall	42 Temple St	1/1/2023	Maggie Benthall
Gianne Gragnoli	11 E. Endicott Rd	1/1/23	Gianne Gragnoli
Jean Yodert	70 Churchill Ave	1-1-23	Jean Yodert
Richard Grondin	8 Endicott Rd	1/1/2023	Richard Grondin
Sherry Reiser	67 Churchill Ave	1/8/2023	Sherry Reiser
DAVID APPELBERG	67 CAVALIER AVE	1/8/2023	David Appelberg
ALICE TSAI-MARIE	35 Temple St.	1/7/2023	Alice Tsai-Marie
RENE LINARD	34 Temple St	1/7/2023	Rene Linard
Mary Perry	27 Temple St	1/26/23	Mary Perry
Jessica Nordgren	19 Jason St.	1/26/23	Jessica Nordgren
Cynthia English	54 Temple St	1/28/23	Cynthia English
Jean-Charles Marc	35 Temple St	02/05/23	Jean-Charles Marc

Appendix 1: Images from Intersection



Looking north from the intersection of
Endicott and Gloucester



Looking south-east from the
intersection of Endicott and Gloucester